WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1898.

Subscriptions by Mail, Post-Paid. 

DAILY AND SUNDAY, per Month......
Postage to foreign countries added. THE SUR, New York City.

Panis-Riceque No. 12, near Grand Motel, and Elosque No. 10, Boulevard des Capucines.

If our friends who favor us with man s soloh to have rejected articles returned publication with to have rejected articles returned they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose

#### Taxing Savings Bank Deposits.

The provision for the taxation of bank deposits, recommended by the Senate Finance Committee as an amendment to the War Revenue bill, reads as follows:

"That every person, bank, association, company shall pay a special excise tax which shall be equi sy-eighth of 1 per centum each month upon the average amount of the depo subject to payment by sheck or draft, or repre-sented by certificate of deposit or otherwise whether payable on demand or at some future day."

Does this amendment apply to deposits in savings banks? If it does, the tax it imposes, amounting to one-quarter of 1 per cent. annually, will, to that extent, reduce the interest payable to depositors. They are now getting not over 4 per cent, annually, and to deduct one-quarter of 1 per cent. from that, is virtually to confiscate at least one-sixteenth of their deposits.

The answer to the question depends upon whether the business of savings banks is the business of banking. If it is, the tax applies to their deposits, because those deposits are money "represented by certificate of deposit or otherwise, whether payable on demand or at some future day."

That Senator ALLISON, who introduced the bill, as amended, in the Senate on Monday, construed the tax as applying to deposits in savings banks as well as in other banks, appears from his estimate that it would yield \$15,000,000 annually. The latest report of the Comptroller of the Currency makes the total deposits of the national, State, and private banks, and of the loan and trust companies of the country only \$3,210,000,000, one-quarter of 1 per cent. upon which is only \$8,025,000. The same report makes the total of our sav ings bank deposits a trifle less than \$2,000,000,000, a tax upon which of onequarter of 1 per cent, would be \$5,000,000, and make the entire yield of the proposed tax \$13,025,000, or very nearly Senator ALLISON'S \$15,000,000. He, therefore, must have included savings bank deposits - In his estimate.

The proposed tax is objectionable, even if It is to be restricted to banks of deposit and discount, and it will be intolerable unless the exemption from it of savings bank deposits is made clear and indisputable.

### National Granaries in England.

The possibility of a naval war has brought the question of establishing national granaries in England once more to the front. There was some agitation of the matter about twelve months ago, and in the House of Commons a motion was agreed to "that, in the opinion of this House, the dependence of the United King dom on foreign imports for the necessaries of life, and the consequences that might arise therefrom in the event war, demands the serious attention of her Majesty's Government." Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, on behalf of the Government, accepted the responsibility imposed by the resolution, but indicated his belief that the best guarantee for the food supply of the country lay in the creation of a strong navy. In this way the question of national granaries was shelved for the time, but its They urge that no other country is so badly off as England in regard to its food supply, five-sixths of the population being, according to their computation, dependent on foreign imports. There is probably not much exaggeration in this statement, and It is creating so much uneasiness that the agitation for the establishment of national stores of grain is again being set on foot. Advocates of national granaries also say that what is wanted is not only a sufficiency of food, but some safeguard as well against an excessive rise in the price of bread, as in 1812 and during the Crimean war, when

the country was more self-supporting. With the example of what has just been occurring in Italy and Spain before them it would seem only prudent on the part of the English people to take some steps to avert similar troubles in their own country. In 1812 England was self-supporting in the matter of food, but since then, through the increase of population and the decreased area of land under cultivation, that advantage has been lost. Germany, Austria and Italy, although in time of peace drawing about one-fourth of their grain supply from abroad, principally from Russia, the Dannbe States and this country, are capable of furnishing ample subsistence for their populations out of their own resources in time of war. France can do the same, for although she imports wheat she is also a large exporter of food supplies, the value of those sent to England alone in 1896 being considerably over \$65,000,000, an increase of no less than \$10,000,000 over the exports of 1895. The difference in the methods of cultivation and system of land tenure has a great deal to do with the advantage the French population has over that of England in the matter of its food supplies, but the fact that the area of land under wheat in England in 1897 was only 1,938, 956 acres, while in France it was 16,360. 000 acres for nearly the same population in the key to the trouble in England.

In September, 1893, a Royal Commission was appointed to inquire into the whole agricultural question in Great Britain, and Lts final report was issued in August, 1897. It went into every question relating to the land, and ended by proposing an international conference to bring about the whole or partial "restoration of silver." Two of the Commission, Mr.George Lambert and Mr. CHANNING, issued separate reports. Mr. CHANNING held that the true solution of the agricultural problem and the food supply of the United Kingdom could only be found in a radical alteration of the land tenure laws. There are, however, too many powerful interests opposed to this, so that for the moment the suggested solution is not a practicable one.

All the saule, the situation is eminently dangerous for a country like England, with the bulk of her agricultural land uncultivated and the mass of the population dependent on foreign food supplies for existence. This has been recognized by leading military and naval authorities, as

well as by economists; but the Government so far has shown no disposition to interfere with the ordinary course of trade by laying in public provision of grain, except in garrisons like Malta and Gibraltar, and a few other spots in the line of coaling stations and naval bases. It seems rather to rely on the expectation that the wheat-producing colonies and the United States will, for the sake of the market, combine with England to protect the trade routes over which their exports would have to pass.

Needs of the Day.

We have found out in less than a month of war that we need greatly in the navy

many things which we haven't got. We need torpedo boat destroyers, of greater speed, size and coal endurance than exist at present elsewhere. Of these three qualities the standard of speed can best be left unimproved and permitted to remain where it is, at thirty knots,

We need scout boats, of size enough to keep the sea and speed enough for rapid courier work, far smaller in size than the Harvard and Yale, but still big enough to carry more than a week's burning of coal, and faster by seven or eight knots at least. We need troop ships, and the department of hospital ships must be supplied

We need colliers, not too tubby for speed, and of enormous size, ships as big as or bigger than the Emperor William the Great. These must be fitted with some sort of coal elevator by which the fighting boats can be coaled at sea. And every one of the latter class, particularly the monitors, should be fitted with a chute that can take in coal in any reasonable weather.

We need more armored cruisers, boats capable of very rapid movement, and which, while not the first choice for a hunt for battleships, won't lose all their sauciness and confidence when a battleship heaves in sight. The Spaniards are well equipped in this respect.

To sum up the needs of the navy, we want it bigger in all respects-more battleships, more monitors, more cruisers, armored and unarmored, and more other craft, equipped with more rapid-firing guns and more DEWEYS; though not for a moment do we suggest that the navy men now under the Stars and Stripes are not all DEWEYS.

And lastly we need the Nicaragua Canal and the Sandwich Islands. Like the navy these two possessions are needed for peace as well as war.

#### The Yellow Dog and the Sausage Meat.

The nomination of Judge Day to be See retary of State in place of the Hop. JOHN SHERMAN, resigned, went to the Senate on April 26. The nomination of the Hon. CHARLES EMORY SMITH to be Postmaster General in place of Mr. GARY had been made five days earlier. For just about one month it had been obvious to all well-informed persons that a partial reorganization of the Cabinet was imminent, and that at all events a new man was to be chosen as head of the State Department.

For the same period of time all observer had been conscious of extraordinary activity in the intellectuals of the Hon. WHITELAW REID, the perpetual candidate for plush breeches. With one or more Cabinet vacancles in prospect he was no longer the soured sluggard, dwelling bitterly on past political disappointments. With appointive offices in sight, and particularly the very office upon which his magnanimous Ego had long centred its hopes of further public usefulness and more yards of plush, the Hon. WHITELAW REID was himself once more. Those who are familiar with the phases of his ambition assert that during the latter part of March and throughout the month of April, while it was yet uncertain what Mr. McKINLEY might do in the way of Cabinet reconstruction, the visions which presented themselves to advocates are again bestirring themselves. his fancy were three, thus classified in respect of loveliness: (1.) An invitation to be Secretary of State in JOHN SHER-MAN's place, something long and most ardently desired, but almost too good to be expected; (2.) The recall of Ambassado HAY to be Secretary of State, and the an pointment of the Hon. WHITELAW REID to succeed Mr. Hay at London : (3.) Nomina tion to a Cabinet office other than that of

Secretary of State. During this month of uncertainty and delightful possibilities, the Hon, WHITELAW REID was the one creature whose eyes were fixed with hungry intentions upon the morsel which the President held suspended, and his tail wagged vigorously, almost rhythmically, in the effort to attract attention to his modest and expectant attitude. How industriously his tail wagged is seen in the editorial columns of the New York Tribune during the month preceding the appointment of Judge DAY to be Secretary of State and of Mr. SMITH to be Postmaster-General. For those four or five weeks President Mo-KINLEY needed to look nowhere else than in the columns of the Hon. WHITELAW REID's newspaper in order to learn the dimensions of his, the President's states manship and the greatness of his mind, heart, and patriotism. The facts were set forth by the Hon. WHITELAW REID during that period of four weeks with a wealth of adjectives and a persistency of iteration which could hardly have escaped the President's attention.

During those four weeks, whichever way Mr. McKinley turned so turned the Hon WHITELAW REID in the Tribune. His admiration was constant and uncontrollable, and his subservience was indefatigable; and it was the man in the White House that he admired even more than the Executive. For a brief space of time, with the Cabinet appointments pending, the Hon, WHITELAW REID became the volunteer custodian of the Hon. WILLIAM MO-

KINLEY's personal and official fame. It was at that time, for example, that the President first learned that George WASH-INGTON and ABRAHAM LINCOLN were the only names worthy to be mentioned with his own in any conspectus of American history. Now that the sunburst of eulogy has ceased, owing to circumstances beyond the Hon. WHITLAW REID's control, it may be interesting to recall some of his efforts to make the English language express the depth and intensity of his admiration of the statesman with Cabinet offices to fill:

"That strong, silent, self-poised, self-contained man in the White House is master of the situation Fortunate is the nation that has such a leader."

"The man of the present hour is made of fitting stuff. Those who have known him well have always known it. To-day the whole land knows it. The nation knows that in this supreme crisis it has

"President McKIRLEY, standing up modestly, but firm'y and courageously, with self-poise, without self-assertion, may not to his conteying raries and to-day seem so heroic a figure as that of Larcous, justified by the event, established in history and idolined by the whole human race. But the conditions are notebly similar and the recembiance is marked. \* \* \* The American people have great cause for thankfulness that in such a crisis as the present, when the the supreme need is of patience and cool deliberation we have in the Exscutive enair a man of such patient it, clear foresight and undoubted courage a LIAM MCKIRLET."

"From amid a storm of hatred and calumn scarcely paralleled in American history he rises by inherent merit into the screne realm of established and eternal right. \* \* \* That is the inestimable debt the Nation owes to WILLIAM MCKINLEY."

"When the war was forced upon us, thirty of years ago, no one was more ready to fight for the Nation and no one fought more valiantly than Wil-LIAM MCKINLEY. If one were forced upon us now he rould be no less ready and vallant than then. Bu the very qualities that made him a good soldier the make him the friend of peace now.

"Apart from its conspicuous firmness, moderatio ourage and high patriotism, the President's policy has been noteworthy for its logical consistency from first to last, . . . It is a cause for national cor gratulation that the Republic has at Its head a ma of principle, far-seeing enough to put himself on ex octly right ground for the beginning, and strong ure and all menace. \* \* \* It is a fitting climax to career that has throughout been marked with a of personal courage in the performance of it."

"At last the President's message. Not at last, after ness of preparation. \* \* \* The message amply fulfile its highest promise. \* \* It will be read by every American with a feeling of gratitude that the Nation has so worthy a head. . . It is the mor ive and the more potent for every hour's delay. It abundantly justifies the Nation's past waiting for it. It powerfully bespeaks the Nation's continue and unwavering confidence in its chosen head."

"It means war. Thanks to President McKINLHY we are ready for it. Thanks to him, too, we have acknowledged justice on our side. \* \* \* Against such appeals the President stood, a veritable tower o strength. . . . Under the masterful leadership o the President, this nation has been slow to anger, and has well ruled its spirit." "The work done by the President in these last fe

weeks for peace and honor must entitle him to high rank not only among the chief magistrates of this Nation, but among all rulers and benefactors of the human race." "As for the President, to him belongs the chief

redit for bravely and wisely marking out the way in advance and amid not a little opposition. To him are due congratulations on the triumph of his policy in Congress. "Is a third name to be added to the list? The most

enthusiastic friend of any man might hesitate to put McKinker to be put there by his enemies. In circum stances almost exactly similar to those in which and is acting, almost exactly as they were. He, too, will outlive the storm. And it may be that before men who are now young shall have grown old the parallel will be completed, and it will be seen that those who strive to place him in a pillory succeeds only in placing him upon a pinnacle of fame."

These are only specimens. It was not occasionally, it was daily; it was not in one editorial article daily, it was in several. The characteristic methods by which the Hon. WHITELAW REID has attained such success, material, political and social, as may be as signed to his industrious career by a merci ful biographer, were never employed by him more patiently and humbly than during that rainbow period of four weeks before the appointment of Judge DAY and Mr. SMITH. We challenge the most industrious research to produce anything like it in the columns of any other newspaper than the Hon. WHITELAW REID'S.

Moreover, we challenge the Hon. WHITE-LAW REID himself to produce anything like it in the columns of his own news paper since the appointment of Judge WIL LIAM R. DAY to be Secretary of State, and of the Hon. CHARLES EMORY SMITH to be Postmaster-General. For the yellow dog did not get the sausage meat, and the piteous appeal of his hungry eyes, and the fawning and whining and mendicant watchfulness, were in vain And within five days after the appointment of Judge DAY we find him discussing the diplomacy of the Administration at Madrid and expressing the hypocritical hope that no error will be found in the completed record of the negotiations. And within three weeks we find him back. ing, like the cur he is, at the heels of Admiral Sampson and describing the maenterprise of the President's naval policy as a humiliating flasco.

This is all that was needed to complete the portrait of a notorious and somewhat nauseous character.

# A New Political Era.

For several years past political controversy has ceased almost wholly in England. No political meetings are occurring, and there is no sharp division of public sentiment such as that which previously set up and upset opposing Government policies. England is having a respite from fierce partisan contention. Is it not probable that we in this country also are approach ing a similar "era of good feeling?"

For the last fifty years political divi sions here have been made by sectional questions chiefly. For a generation after our civil war the white South was solid politically from reasons of selfpreservation which seemed to it good and sufficient. Even the tariff question caused acrimonious sectional division. The North and South were ceaselessly in political conflict, always at cross purposes, and in one way or another the enmittee and asperities generated by the civil war gave shape to our partisan controversies.

It was an unfortunate, a perilous con dition, tending to retard our development and dissipate much of our potential power.

During late years, however, and more especially during the last year, a happy change has come over the situation. It was demonstrated during the last Cleve land Administration that practically there is no difference of opinion between the Democratic and Republican parties touching the tariff. That old bone of contention has been cast aside. Controversy over the tariff has ceased. Protection grows in favor increasingly at the South The political division made by the silver question of 1896 was not influenced by the old spirit of sectional animosity created by the civil war. The opposition to the Bryan scheme of substantial repudiation extended to all parts of the Union and brought together in political harmony Democrats and Republicans, Southerners and Northerners. The conservatism of the people triumphed over their partisan and sectional prejudices. Nor has there appeared since any reason for dissolving the political combination to which the victory was due. The necessity for it

remains unchanged. The war with Spain is now strengthening that bond of union. The sectional question and the influence of merely sectional feel ing in determining political sympathy and partisan policy have passed away finally, and for the first time in fifty years a spirit of harmony prevails and a common nation alsentiment is manifested. The old causes of discord, largely sentimental, have ceased to operate. There is now no solid South no solid North, but a solid finden, whose differences of judgment are likely hereafter to be wholly independent of purely geographical distinction

Under such eirenmatances it does not seem improbable that we shall start out in the new career of national development now before us with a more general agreement and with less asperity of political difference than have ever before been known in our history.

#### Pierre Loti's Lament!

Amid her many misfortunes Spain has been spared one disaster. Lieut. JULIEN VIAUD, retired, of the French Navy, and likewise of the French Academy, will not command a privateer under her flag to prey upon the commerce of the United States. The gallant Lieutenant, who is now engaged by the Paris Figuro to warm French feeling by writing sentimental letters from Spain under his literary signature of PIERRE LOTI, found that a story preceded him wherever he went to the effect that he was collecting a corsair crew to assist Spain. The idea naturally appealed to his imagination, but he was forced to dispel it. "Commander of a corsair!" he says in Le Figuro. " Alas how I regret that it is not true and not possible. It is a legend in so far as it con cerns me, and a mad dream, I much fear, for those who should try the adventure in our age of electricity and of steam it would be necessary to equip a corsair such as cannot be found, making twenty knots at least; otherwise it is useless to interfere there is nothing to be done."

It is not good will toward Spain that is lacking in Lieut, VIAUD, it will be noticed, but he cannot cast off the despondent tone that constitutes the chief charm in PIERRE Lori's writings. He has no illusions left. Has he not visited Japan and discovered in his "Madame Chrysanthème" that the pic turesque musme has none of the psycholog ical complexities needful to a Parisian romancer? Did he not find a few months ago, when himself in command of a torpedo boat "making twenty knots at least, that one torpedo may smash into anothe even though an Academician be its Cantain? And is he not now on the retired list because a naval examining board has just decided that it is hardly safe to put him in command of a French war vessel! Lieut. VIAUD's regard for Spain is doubtless too genuine to permit his risking even one of her privateers under his command.

The service PIERRE LOTI may render the land of his affection is clearly marked out for him, and is well suited to his gifts. It has nothing to do with piracy on land or sea, with conquistadores or navigators. As Spain's colonial possessions drop away one by one, PIERRE LOTI, still dreaming of the CID and CORTEZ and PIZARRO, can mourn over her losses in his elegant, despondent French. DEWEY, SAMPSON, and SCHLEY will furnish him with inspiration

#### Launch of the Alabama.

To-day has been appointed for launching at Philadelphia, the first of the new trio of 11,525-ton battleships, authorized under the act of June 10, 1896, and contracted for about four months later. All things considered, this group of ships is well advanced, and seems likely to keep on the heel of the Kearsarge and Kentucky, of the same displacement, for which the contracts were signed about nine months earlier. Chief Constructor Hichborn's summary for May I shows that while the Kearsarge and Ken tucky, building at Newport News, were 58 per cent, completed, the Alabama was then 50 per cent., the Illinois, at Newport News, 45 per cent., and the Wisconsin, at San Francisco, 36. We may expect the Kearsarge pair to be ready for sea early next year, with the Alabama class following in the autumn.

In dimensions these five fine battleships are all alike. They most resemble in that respect the Iowa, which they exceed by eight feet in length, but by less than three inches in breadth, while having six inches less mean draught. They are twenty feet longer and about three feet broader than he Indiana class, with six inches mean draught. The contract cost of each for hull and machinery averages over \$400,000 less than that of the other four first-class battleships.

The two great points of difference be tween the Alabama class and the Kear sarge class are in the turrets and the batteries. The latter class have superposed turrets, the 8-inch being fixed on top of the 13-inch, and turning as part of them. In the Indiana class and the Iowa the 8-inch turrets are distinct and placed elsewhere, and in the Alabama class there are no 8-inch guns at all. The Indiana's main battery consists of four 13-inch, eight 8-inch, and four 6-inch guns; the Iowa's, of four 12-inch, eight 8-inch, and six 4-inch; the Kearsarge's, of four 13-inch, four 8-inch, and fourteen 5-inch; the Alabama's, of four 13-inch and fourteen 6-inch. When the Kearsarge's battery was planned, we had no rapid-fire guns larger than the 5-inch, but now the 6-inch are of that type, and hence can be used in the Alabama class, while, in order not to make these ships over-armed, the four 8-inch guns of our other battleships are omitted.

It will be gratifying to see the Alabama in the water, as a token of the progress made upon her and her sister ships.

The able statement with which Chairman HITT, of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, reorted to the House of Representatives the res lution for Hawaiian annexation was worthy of the subject. The Sandwich Islands cannot long be kept out of the Union. The argument for their incorporation is too clear and too strong for the sense of the American people to leave them unannexed, the food of hope for other countries' ambition and the source of anxiety and irritation to the United States.

An officer of Ohio volunteers in the civil war, Capt. T. F. ALLEN, says of Gen. JAMES H. VILSON, in the Journal of the U.S. Cavalry Association, that " the volunteers who had the good fortune to come under the command of this brilliant cavalry leader are always outspoken in their praise of him, and are equally proud of saying they belonged to Wilson's cavalry corps. The consummate skill and bril liant success with which Gen. WILSON handled this large body of borsemen demonstrated the wisdom of our great commander, Gen. GRANT, in selecting Wilson for this important command. At this time Gen. WILSON was about 27 years of age, and the 12,000 cavalrymen who swung into their saddles at the sound of his bugle to follow his battle flag were mostly roungsters," although veterans in war service. It is interesting to see how, apart from the veteran regulars, the appointment of Gen. WILson, Gen. LEE, Gen. WHEELER, and others to high volunteer commands has linked our army of to-day with the famous American soldiership of a generation ago.

# Way Bown in Texas.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Dewey's victory eached this remote part of the globe to-day and was celebrated with 100 pounds of dynamite—and by raising the Stars and Stripes. We're waiting for the ALLICHPER GIOGRO-

AMBRICA AND ENGLAND.

Various Views on the Great Question Procipi-TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIT! The solu-

tion of a question now seriously agitating the English-speaking people of the world lies with England, A condition of affairs has arisen in which

America and England have become necessary

to one another. All Europe is ready to apring at the throat of America, and we must admit that but for England other Jealous European countries would have ere now gone to the as sistance of Spain. As Americans we are grateful for this. But as Americans fighting for the freedom of Cuba, fighting for the liberation of an oppressed people, we can never consider or enter into an alliance of any kind with England while that country holds Ireland in bondage. Should America entertain the idea of such an alliance under existing circumstances it would give the lie direct to the nobleness and disinterestedness which we profess and in reality by which we are actuated in this war with Spain, Let England do one great magnanimous act: Let her at once concede to Ireland liberty and justice. Give to her elster isle freedom in the fullest sense of the word, retaining only such sovereignty and such a union as will make the interests of Ireland and England mutual, and such an alliance as will make the Irish and English peoples friends instead of foes. This is the true solution of the problem, and every Irish-American loving the land of his ancestors, true to the land of his adoption, where we have received equality and liberty, should further !! with every fibre of his heart and soul. Irishmer owe an obligation to future generations of the people residing in the old land. They owe an obligation to America, which they love even more than Ireland, and they must not stand in the way of circumstances that will serve to re deem the first and be at a critical moment great aid to the second. England, in her espousa

deem the first and be at a critical moment a great aid to the second. England, in her espousal of America's cause, in her loyalty to American interests, has come nearer to the hearts of the Irish race than ever before. As a people we are not ungrateful, and should England now do a great act of magnanimity she may yet win our affections. Let the dead bast, with all that it contains, bury its dead. We cannot change or reverse what is gone. We cannot forget our heroes and martyrs nor the great sacrifices they made for their land and race. But should England now, of her own free will, give what they fought and died for, they would be the very first to applaud the Irishmen who would come to the front and urge its acceptance. They were brave and true and magnanimous. They sacrificed their lives in order that their country and the generations that would come after them should secure the freedom that they and their forefathers did not enjoy. They would now sacrifice their prejudices in order that the generations to come may receive the great benefits and blessings which may now through wisdom be attained.

The United States has before it grander opportunities than were even surmised when it engaged in the noble enterprise for which at present its sons are offering up their lives. It is now possible to secure not alone the liberty of Cuba, but the freedom of Ireland, and at the same time a powerful ally. A fourth, more or less, of America's sons and daughters are either Irish or of Irish descent. History will show and the present illustrates that Americans either of Irish adoption or extraction are equally true, equally patriotic, equally faithful, and always equally ready with other American citizens to fight and die for this grand republic. Taking their numbers in the United States and patriotism under consideration, together with our obligations to humanity, their desires and their just dues cannot be overlooked. The beople of America profess high ideals, and the example we are now setting the world proves that our p means of freiand's freedom. England wants our frieidship as much as we do hers, and perhaps more. Let England do justice to Ireland at once, and america can then clasp and hold to its heart the hand that does not hold the lash of tyranny over an oppressed race.

C. J. BARRETT, M. D. PITTSTON, Pa., May 14.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Any one who has retained his normal condition of mind during these days of "war extras," and has not allowed himself to be carried away by the reports of the sudden love which "our kindred across the sea" have acquired for us and the alleged bitter hostility of all the other European powers, will see that the speech of Mr. Chamberlain the other day at Birmingham was simply a wail at the impending destruction of the British Empire if the United States does not come to England's aid. What is the United States to gain from an alliance that according to Mr. Chamberlain's own words, would involve her in a conflict with all the European powers with which she is now at peace? And, if nothing, what has England done for us that we should make such a sacrifice for her! THE SUN has shown time and again that, as commercial competitors, the interests of England and the United States are necessarily conflicting.

England's acts, which "speak low words," after the outbreak of the present war words, after the outbreak of the present war were to order Dewey away from Hong Kong by 6 o'clock of a certain evening (though that this was uncalled for is shown by the stay of the Spanish squadron at the Cape Verde Islands and of the Temerario at a Brazilian port); she has detained a United States boat at Falmouth, which boat, by the way, had been unable to get a crew, notwithstanding the desire of Englishmen to enlist by the thousand in the American Army and Navy; she has detained the steamship Ireland on the suspicion that she had been

men to enlist by the thousand in the American Army and Navy; she has detained the steamship Ireland on the suspicion that she had been sold to the United States, and she was the first country to prohibit her ship ewners or builders from selling ships to this country.

An alliance of this great republic with England in the alleged cause of "humanity" would be a crime; it would be an indorsement of her past and present policy, which has resulted in the slaughter of more human beings, in the enslavement of more human beings, in the enslavement of more countries, the robbery of more weaker astions, and the violation of more treaties than has marked the progress of any other nation on earth. Wherever there is a people struggling for freedom or an amelioration of their political condition or the establishment of a just and righteous government by the great beacon light, there, whether it be in Ireland, Italy, France, or Germany, and eventually in Cuba Itself, such an alliance would be regarded with consternation and despair. W. J. B. New York, May 15, 1898. d with consternation and despair. New York, May 15, 1898.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The over tures of Great Britain to the United States, suggesting an ultimate compact for the preserva tion of peace, and, incidentally, using the combined influence for freer trade and commerce is the remote regions of the East or elsewhere. coming at this time upon the acquisition by us of the Philippine Islands, should receive due consideration in the councils of our Government.

While it should be remembered of the United States, and recorded in the annals of time, that this contest with Spain is the first and only war begun by any country in the history of the world which had for its object the sole and disinterested purpose of releasing from inhuman treatment a helpless people of another race outside its borders, and establishing their freedom upon a permanent basis, there is nothing to prevent t being made the occasion for an alliance of the English-speaking race in the interest of progress and universal peace.

We do not forget that in the very zenith of Spanish glory and power, when Spain was mistress of the world, it was the English race which dealt the first blow that started the decline and fall of that retrograde power, and from that time on her downward course has never ceases.

It now devolves upon an English-speaking race again to destroy her armada, to strike the finishing blow, to deliver the final quietus to that cruel and treacherous nation, to those perpetrators of savage horrors whose wicked to tures in the Netherlands made the inhuman Alva a fit precursor of the monster Weyler in Cubs Aft precursor of the monster weyler in Cuba. The Spain we are fighting to-day is the Spain of the sixteenth century, brave, vindictive and savage, delighting mostly in rapine, robbery and the persecution of her subjects; in ignorance, bigotry and buil fights. It is an act of Christian civilization, demanded by this enlightened age, and forced upon the United States, to release Spanish colonies in American and Asiatic waters from the cruel, extortionate, and hopeless despotism of that decayed power. No other nation could undertake it without disturbing that balance of power in the European family to prolong the nice adjustment of which great navies and atanding armies exist, consuming half the public revenues of that continent.

The united edicts of the two great English-speaking nations would be respected. They together can convince the Spanish and all other races that the days of conquest, glory, and display are over; that force of arms is made necessary only in dealing with degenerate or savage nations; that diplomacy and arbitration should conclude all disputes and queations arising between countries of intelligence and integrity; that the growth and strength of any State must rest in the fullest development of its agricultural, industrial, and commercial interests, in Spain we are fighting to-day is the

the education of its people, and in raising to the highest level the standard of citizenship and

morals.

Supplemented by the power of the English Navy and the strategic strength of her posessions, shall we not be left to pursue more closely the strict lines of government marked out by the founders of the republic, and from which we were in danger of departing to pursue the road of devitalizing socialism with its destruction of individual independence and protection?

If conditions compel us to keep the Philippines Porto Lico, and Cuba, will not such an alliance make easier the task of harmonizing them and resisting the jealousies of other nations?

them and resisting the jealousies of other na-tions?

Heaven forbid, however, that we who have amply illustrated the power of a people to govern themselves successfully under a Constitution which guarantees to all the freest exercise of personal and political independence, should en-danger that priceless inheritance by any at-tempt, while flushed with victory, to dominate the people of other lands without regard to their willingness, or that the manta of conquest should thwart us from our appointed mission. Peace, continued peace, and the gradual exten-sion of our industries and commerce must be the end for which we strive in order that we and our posterity may repretuate and ever cling to the firm foundation of our liberties laid by the fathers of the republic.

George William Ballou. NEW YORK, May 16.

To THE EDITOR OF THE BUS-Sir: What will the rish citizens in the United States think about the proposed alliance with Great Britain? Will they approposed sinance with Great Britain; will tary ap-proach the question with an "open mind," as you advise, or will they be led away by their old-time antagonism and oppose the idea from the commence nent? As one of this large body of citizens I am fixed in my belief that my first political allegia due to this republic, and that if I do my duty I will not allow any outside question to interfere with th

best interests of my adopted home. Never mind how England treated Ireland in the part; that is not the issue new. We are not struggling with ancient history to-day, but we are in a national crisis, and it is our plain duty to forget every other land on earth if necessary and to limit our aspirations to the triumph of the flag we live under. If it country that there should be an alliance of some kind, then the Irish question must not be allowed to

The Irlah citizen can only sympathize with and support the cause of Irish nationality so long as that cause does not interfere with his duty to this repub-lic, and the instant it does interfere with that duty He, and the instant it does interfere with that dity then he must become an American first and an Irish Nationalist afterward. I have risked my liberty in the Irish national cause, and I claim to have intense sympathy for home rule for Irisland; but I am an American otitzen, and if it can be proved to my satis-faction that an alliance with Great Britain is for the best interests of the United States, then I will cher-fully let bygones be bygones and welcome such an alliance at any time.

lly lel bygones be orgones and referely by what is accet any time. As a citizen I will be guided absolutely by what is at for this, my country, and I shall have no mental streat on about it either. I will not even consider heter such an alliance would be likely to bring forms to Ireland, which I think would be the case, at I will approach the arguments advanced for and cainst such an alliance with an "open mind" and retoring to resian, when a summents advanced for and tut i will approach the arguments advanced for and against such an alliance with an "open unind" and decide for myself what is best for this country, irrespective of any other consideration whatspever. This is my idea of the duty of a citizen.

sins are exceedingly friendly to us just now. This is as it should be. However, we can scarcely forget the past. That past has been too full of sneers, domi neering, and injustice. The change is so sudden that cause other than the unselfish love of kinship. Nevertheless, we are quite willing that the past should be orgiven and hidden far out of sight, but before so loing we would like some decided proof of the ain

The British say that they would not fight us except nder conditions so urgent and so unexpected as to make such a war an utter improbability, nay, almost an impossibility. We feel the same way. Yet, when we look upon a map of the Western Hemisphere, beginning at Hallfax on the north, passing to the Bermudas, thence to the Hahamas, on to Jamaica and British Honduras, we see a chain of coaling stations and fortifications of scarce any use to Great Britain except as against us. Now, if she wishes to convince us of her sin-cere good will and remove all suspicion on our part, let her cede to us for a suitable compensation the Bermudas, the Bahamas, Jamaica, and British Hon-

let her cede to us for a soliable compensation and Beritish Honduras.

Bermudas, the Bahamas, Jamales, and British Honduras.

This places give to a thinking American a feeling of insecurity. They are too conspicuously mainstained against us. They seem to indicate something quite different from the love and trust expressed recently by the British press. It remains with Great Britian to remove this cause of irritation.

I hope this suggestion will find its way into the British press. If the British were emough in earnest to agree to it I fear our penny-wise legislators would be agree to it I fear our penny-wise legislators would be a steratain it, as was the case with St. Thomas. What would a few millions be now compared to the value of the island. So to with Hayti, which we could have had for nothing. What a splendid base for operations against either Cubs or Porto Rico Hayti would make.

I wonder if this war will teach us anything? Will we build the Nicaragua Canal? It will cost, but it will pay. What American would begrudge a few dollars per capita to have had the Oregon off Havana weeks ago and be saved all this time and suspense? Hawail, too, how much more fooling will there be about that question? Is all the procrastination and idlocy of our country concentrated in Congress?

M. H.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUN-Sir: Our war with Spain conveys a host of valuable object lessons. The attitude of our people is a source of great pride to us. Far from being alarmed concerning the ultimate outcome of the war, the people go about their business headings of the penny papers, and the war bullstins displayed at the prominent street corners, an outsider, would hardly realize that a war was going on. If anything, the war has had an exhibarating effect upon business. One prominent department store has is-sued instructions to its buyers to increase rather than to relax their purchases.

No evidence is visible anywhere of any desire on the part of the public to restrict expenses because of the war. Preparations are going on as actively as ever for the annual summer exodus, and the summer girl-bless her innocent heart-will be with us in all her glory. In abort, there is a universal feeling of optimism manifest that speaks well for the confidence of our people in our success. We need not be at all concerned as to whether this or that European power is going to observe neutrality or not.

We are going to win this war, and America will be all the greater for it, and the Stars and Stripes will be dearer to us than ever before.

# Tax Ten and Coffee.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Why is it that ur legislators in Washington seem determined to levy so many unpopular taxes, many of which will be difficult of honest collection, while they could raise \$15,000,000 of revenue which the Government now needs by replacing the duty on tea, with the certainty that a large portion of the duty would be paid by the foreign producers?

# The Mon Schind the Guns

A chear and salute for the Admiral and here's to the Captain bold, And never forget the Commodore's debs when the deeds of might are told! They stand to the deck thro' the bastle's wreak when

the great shells roar and screechand never they fear when the foe is near to practic what they preach: But off with your hat and three times three for Cotumbia's true-blue sons The men below who batter the fee-the men behind

the guns! Oh. light and merry of heart are they when the When, with more than enough of the "green-backed stuff." they start for their leave-o'-shore:

and you'd think, perhaps, that the blue bloused chaps who loll along the street Are a tender bit, with sals on it, for some flerce mustache" to eat-Some warrior bold, with straps of gold, who dassles and fairly stuns as modest worth of the sailer boys—the lads who

serve the guns. But say not a word till the shot is heard that tells the Till the long deep roar grows more and more from the

over the deep the tempests sweep of fire and bursting shell. And the very air is a mad Despair in the throns of a living hell; Then down, deep down, in the mighty ship, passes

the ships of "Yank" and "Don,"

by the midday suns.
You'll find the chaps who are giving the raps—the men behind the guns!

Oh, well they know how the cyclones blow that they loose from their cloud of death.

And they know is heard the thunder-word their fleroe ten-incher saith ! The steel decks rock with the lightning shock, and

shake with the great recoil, And the sen grows red with the blood of the dead and But not till the foe has gone below or turns his prov

t or un ode bailds-ideem

\$20,000,000 in Three Months.

CONDITION OF STATE BANKS. becrease in the Total Resources of Meants

ALBANY, May 17 .- The tabulation by the State Sanking Department of reports of the 212 State banks, giving their condition on April 26 last, shows that the total resources of these banks has decreased \$19,919,646 as compared with the reports of the same institutions four months previous. The amount due depositors during the quarter decreased \$18,673,110. The amount due from banks, trust companies and brokers decreased \$7,829,904. The total amount of cash items decreased \$19,441,145, and the amount of

United States legal tenders and direculating notes of national banks held by the State banks was decreased \$2,263,631.

During the quarter the amount of specie hald by the State banks was increased by \$5,240,874, and the amount of stocks and bends by \$1,623,496. The total resources and liabilities of the State banks on April 26 arc:

State canks on April 26 are:

Resources—Loans and discounts, \$178,511,723;
Hability of directors as makers, \$6,5:3,992; overdrafts, \$155,140; dur from banks, trust companies,
and brokers, \$28,470,000; real estate, \$9,946,379;
morganes owned, \$9,261,190; stocks and bonds,
\$29,390,490; bycle, \$26,450,545; legal tenders and
circulating notes, \$140,462,873; cash items, \$29,035,490; other assets, \$1,663,765, Total, \$304,546,973. 973.
Liabilities—Capital, \$30,487,700; surplus fund, \$19,193,550; undivided profits, \$8,416,626; due depositors, \$8903,377,718; due banks, funts companies, and brokers, \$26,524,957; due asvings banks, \$13,\*75,701; due State Tressurer, \$1,058,395; other itabilities, \$1,050,318. Total, \$394,946,978.

QUAY WILL FACE WANAMAKER

Both Will Be on the Floor at the Republican

Convention in Pennsylvania HARRISBURG, Pa., May 17.-John Wansmaker will be a delegate to the coming State Republican Convention. He will be substituted for one of the Philadelphia anti-Quay delegates. for one of the Philadelphia anti-Quay delegates. He wants to be on the floor to defend himself against a probable attack by his enemies.

Senator Quay learned yesterday of Wansmaker's intention to be a delegate to the convention and promptly arranged with one of the Beaver delegates to take his place on the floor. The Senator did this in the great fight for State Chairman. His object in going into the convention is to be in position to reply to Wansmaker or his friends if he is attacked personally.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir : Permit me to express a feeling of deep gratitude that you have found space in THE SUN in these times, when every-thing relating to the war is of most absorbing interest, for several communications regarding an aggravated local nuisance. I refer to the rapid increase in the number of dogs kept on Manhattan Island, and the unbridled liberty that their owners accord them. In my judgment, it is only a question of time when New York will become as notorious as Constantinople for the number of dogs which it permits practically at large in its streets. They defile our sidewalks even when held by a leash in the hands permit a dog she was leading to defile the curb in the middle of a crosswalk where other women must in-

There are certain blocks in this town where it is Impossible to keep the sinewalks and abutting stoops free from the excremental deposits of the dogs kept in the neighborhood. But this is not the worst feature of the increase in the number of dogs kept in
New York and the privileges that their cornors assume in their behalf. Every now and then we read
in the papers of the savege attacks of these brutes
upon men, women and children. Still another phase
of the outrage is the disturbance of the public peace
by these beasts. It is surprising to me that their
covers, for their own comfort, do not restrain their
dogs from barking at all hours of the day and night.
Yet, so far as I can discover, they make no attempt to
do so. It is possible that those who suffer from this
very serious annoyance are ignorant of the fact that
they can repress it by applying to the Board of
Health, which has the power to abate the nuisance
whenever sworn affidavits are submitted to the
board that such breach of the peace exists. There is
probably no worse offender against the public comfort in this respect than the fox terrier. There is
really no excuse why any one should keep a dog in
New York city; they are not needed as protection
against burglars nor for other purposes, as they are
in the country.
It will be the fault of the dog owners themselves if
the residents of New York should in time insist upon
the enactment of an ordinance prohibiting the keepin the neighborhood. But this is not the worst fea

It will be the fault of the dog owners themselves if the residents of New York should in time insist upon the enactment of an ordinance prohibiting the keeping of dogs in the borough of fanhattan. I speak from considerable experience, as the block in which I live, bounded by Columbus and Amsterdam avenues and seventy-fourth and Seventy-fifth streets, is literally infested with dogs, which, however finely bred they may be, are under no restrains whatever on the part of their owners, either as to decency or in consideration of the rights of other citizens. In my judgment, if the war did not engross our attention, the most popular movement that could be begun at the moment would be in favor of the enactment of an ordinance of the character I have mentioned. I know that more than one member of the Council of Greater New York would be very glad to champlom such a movement.

C. A.

Greater New York would be such a movement. New York, May 16, 1898. To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: I have recently seen two letters in your paper in regard to the dog nuisance in New York, and I want to add my voice to the protest against the unmitigated and inexcusable abuse of our streets by the presence of these useless animals. In country places they may be a necessity, but in the streets of cities there is no more need of them than for pigs, chickens, goese, cats, or cattle, and when in addition to their fautility we consider that they are a menace to health, dangerous to life, and disgusting to the senses, I respectfully submit that they should be banished from the streets and one more unleance thereby abated. J. M. NEW YORK, May 17.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The chances of war have laid upon us the duty of providing for the future happiness and welfare of the people of the Philippine Islands. The weak sisters of both sexes are much exercised in what they call their abilities, and are crying out that we shall skulk and dodge our responsibilities

Instead of governing them it might be well to found in them an independent Anglo-Saxon repub lic, over which we should exercise a protectorate for five or ten years. To found such a republic will be a very simple and easy matter. The following steps are suggested as likely to accomplish the desired re-sult with the greatest certainty and in the shortest time.

dine: First—Change the name of the islands to the Indo-rotory Islands or the Freedom Islands. The foul First—Change the name of the Islands to the Independent Islands or the Freedom Islands. The foul memory of Philip II. is a hoodoo on their future.

Second—Extinguish all Spanish land titles. Our experience in the territory acquired from Mexico shows that the existence of Spanish titles ur pat-nix covering great tracts of land is a handleap difficult to be overcome by free settlers.

Third—Establish the Torrens system of land transfer.

fer.

Fourth—Extend to the islands the American Homestead and Mineral Land Laws, limiting their application for five years to people who are either natives of the United States or have been naturalized here.

Fifth—Turn five hundred prospectors loose to huns the control of th Fifth—Turn ave shared for gold and minerals.

Sixth—As soon as there is in any locality a sufficient gathering of American citizens to run a primary meeting let them set themselves up as a self-governmental to the self-go

ing community.

Seventh—As soon as there are half a million Americans in the islands let them set up a republic and get it alone. It alone.

I doubt not that if the Spanish land littles be extinguished and the Homestead law be extended to the islands, the settlement and civilization of the Philippines will be as rapid as that of Oklahoma, and that within ten years the islands will be a prosperous, contented. Anglo-Saxon republic, perfectly able the run their own affairs and take care of themselves.

NEW YORK, May 16.

CHAUNCEY N. DUTTOM.

# Robins in the South.

To the Epiron of The Sun-Sir: You were quite right in saying that the robin comes South in winter.
They are slaughtered by thousands near New Orleans, Mobile, and other cities for market. So I have been

Now, as to what I know. I have seen thousands (or a million) of them in the pine woods here, flying about like leaves blown about by the wind. I have seen swallows in similar focks. I suppose they finally settle down somewhere south of here and pick up a living.

Some years ago, in December and January, I had a visit in my sarden daily, or oftener, from a robin and mocking bird. They were after the fat and, I suppose, luscious caterpillar, known as the cutworm, which eats off all kinds of garden truck when its young and small and tender. And they came to-gether.

young and small and tender. And they came to-gether.

They came for weeks. Finally the robin disap-peared. I suppose he had started for his home in some Northern apple tree. carel. I suppose in man statute of the come Northetu apple tree.

Robins do come South. Jone G. Wess.
Carary (intitude 27. 10.), Fig., May 15.

# A Numerous Order

From the Washington Post. A well-known Wasnington wetners was doing the cathedral cities of England test summer. out her tour she wore a tiny American flag pinnes to the walst of her travelling dresses. A good many of the Euglish people whom she met did not understand, or pretended not to understand, what the flag stood

"You belong to some secret society, I perceive," said an Englishwoman to whom she was introduced, pointing to the diminutive starry banner "Yes," responded the Washington woman, ami-ably, "there are 70,000,000 of us."

# Called to Account by a Patron.

From the Mobile Daily Register. We congratulate our readers that the Associated Press recalled as soon as possible the hysterical ac-count of the Cardenas affair which it sent out early

on Wednesday, and substituted therefor a report based upon the facts. The genius like that which wrote the first report and can take ten words of report and expand them into three columns o ing discription " is godines enough, but mis